

5.2. All of these sounds will be familiar to English speakers, though there will be slight differences dealt with in the following sections.

5.2.1. /i/ /e/ /o/ /u/

5.2.1.1. In American English these sounds are usually pronounced with an "off-glide." That is, after the vowel is sounded, the tongue and/or lips move into a different position and vary the sound quality. Notice the off-glide in the following English words.

key	/khiy/	ki	lay	/ley/	le
see	/siy/	si	bay	/bey/	be
bee	/biy/	bi	say	/sey/	se
foe	/fow/	fo	sue	/suw/	su
so	/sow/	so	do	/duw/	du
low	/flow/	lo	who	/huw/	hu

Practice the Panjabi vowel sounds which are represented after each English expression.

5.2.1.2. /i/ Pronounce the following Panjabi words.

Initial Position: id a Muslim festival

Medial Position: sir head

jib tongue

fekir beggar

pətili cooking pot

kita (he) did

Final Position: toti trousers

t<sup>h</sup>odi chin

jutti shoe

di of (fem.)

ki what

5.2.1.3. /e/

Initial Position:

enē	he, this person
es	this person
ede	his, this person's
e	this person, it

Medial Position:

seo	apple
meke	wife's family
dela	eyeball
jumerat	Thursday
riṣtedar	relatives

Final Position:

te	and
sade	our
onē	he, she, it
kIthē	where (interrogative)

5.2.1.4. /o/

Initial Position:

oda	his
onē	he
ot <sup>h</sup> e	there
odər	that side

Medial Position:

k <sup>h</sup> ota	donkey
cor	thief
chota	little
goda	knee
thodi	chin

Final Position:

jao	go (imperative)
seo	apple
k <sup>h</sup> ao	eat (imperative)
pIo	father
bolo	speak (imperative)

## 5.2.1.5. /u/

## Initial Position:

unni	nineteen
udiknā	to wait for
unasi	seventy-nine

## Medial Position:

munda	boy
kuri	girl
angur	grapes
tarbuz	watermelon
dup ær	afternoon

## Final Position

kæddu	pumpkin
alu	potato
aru	peach
talu	palate

## 5.2.2. /ə/, /a/, /ɔ/

## 5.2.2.1. ə

## Initial Position:

ædər	here
ə	this
ə tu ar	Sunday

## Medial Position:

gər	foreign, alien
ər	town
dup æ r	afternoon
tʰər	stop!

## Final Position:

əs	thing
kə	Say!

5.2.2.2. /a/

Initial Position:

ar <u>a</u>	peach
at <u>a</u>	flour
ax <u>a</u>	yes
al <u>a</u>	potato

Medial Position:

ha. <u>a</u> l	state of health
p <u>h</u> al	rake
k <u>I</u> tab	book
v <u>a</u> .l	hair
s <u>a</u> .l	year

Final Position:

�a	tea
�a��a	father's brother
hala	yes
b��ra	big; very much

5.2.2.3. /o/

Initial Position:

olya	saint, sage
okat	condition; state of being

Medial Position:

�ol	rice
m��la	God
bolo	to speak
k��la	coal

There are no words with a final /o/.

5.2.3. /I/, /ɛ/, /U/, /ə/

5.2.3.1. /I/

Initial Position:

Ič	in
Ik	one
Imteon	exam
Iman	truth

Medial Position:

kItab	book
pIt̥h	back
lIx.nā	to write
dIn	day

There are no words with /I/ in final position.

5.2.3.2. /ɛ/

Initial Position:

ɛna	so much
ɛda	its (close by)

Medial Position:

mendi	henna (a red dye)
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Final Position:

bɛ	sit!
lɛ	take

5.2.3.3. /U/

Initial Position:

Utərnā	to come down
Uči	high
Ute	on top of
U <sup>th</sup> na	to get up

Medial Position:

bUd	Wednesday
lUčča	rascal
jUtti	shoe
dUd	milk

There are no words with /U/ in final position.

5.2.3.4. /ə/

Initial Position:

əmb	mango
əddi	half
ədi	heel

Medial Position:

ma <sup>k</sup> hən <sup>g</sup>	butter
bəzər	bazaar
səver	early
sərək	road
mə.səm	weather
nəzər	sight

There are no words with /ə/ in final position.

### 5.3. Nasalization of Vowels

Nasalization is common in Panjabi. You will notice that in some of the following pairs of words it is only the nasalization of a vowel that causes the difference in meaning.

<u>English</u>	<u>Punjabi</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Punjabi</u>
breath	sa	1st person sing. past of "to be"	sā
throat	gela	cheeks	gellā
go (conditional)	jai	go! (imp.)	jāī
conciliation	sUla	sixteen	solā
name husband calls his wife's brother	sala	years	sallā
exclamation used by men	ha	yes	hā
white	cItta	sprinkling	chIttā
		rain	mī
		me, I	māē
		you (formal)	tūsi

#### 5.4. Vowel Clusters

The following clusters are common in Panjabi. The first group is unisyllabic, that is, the two sounds fuse and condition each other, whereas in the second group the clusters are divided into two syllables.

##### I

ai	ai	she came
ae	pae	present continuous particle (m.)
ei	trei	twenty-three
oi	hoi	part form "take place" (fem.)
ao	jao	go (plural imperative)
ui	khui	small well
uo	tuɔda	your (formal)
oa	k <sup>h</sup> oa	to have someone eat
əo	seo	one hundred
oe	hoe	past form "take place" (m.)

##### II

ea	vea	marriage
ia	maria	dead
Io	pIo	father
iæ	çəlli æ	she is about to go
eæ	çelle æ	he is about to go

### 5.5. Tone

Every spoken sound carries with it a pitch; that is, it is higher, lower, rising, falling, or on the same level with respect to other sounds. In some languages tone is more important than in others, various tone levels and contours causing important differences in meaning independent of vowel or consonantal differences.

In English, stress is more important than tone. Thus, in the following words, stress alone causes differences in meaning:

address -- noun

address -- verb

contest -- noun

contest -- verb

In Panjabi, on the other hand, stress is not as important as in English. We cannot say that every word carries a primary stress -- that is, one heavily accented syllable -- as is the case in English. However, tone is important, and since stress in English is accompanied by a higher tone, you may hear the rising tones in the following words as stress. The rising tones in these words are marked "", the level tones "-", and the falling tones "". Note that the only distinctions in sounds in these words are tonal:

kóra horse

kóra whip

kóra leper

Listen carefully to the pronunciation of these three words. You will notice that the falling tone in the first word is followed by a slight rise in the second syllable. The first syllable is long in the word for "horse", of medium

length in the word for "whip", and short in that for "leper". Also, the initial consonant in "horse" is slightly different from that in the other two words, being almost voiced. Listen carefully to these characteristics -- long vowel, falling pitch, and nearly-voiced stop in the following words with falling pitch.

pæn	sister
padō	harvest

Now listen to the rising pitch accompanied by a short vowel in the following words. The voiceless unaspirated stop in the first word is pronounced normally:

kædi	prisoner
mændi	red dye

When a word is monosyllabic and ends in a vowel, tone functions to lengthen the vowel sound. Listen to the following sets of words to see how all three tones produce this effect:

ā	-- come -- is heard as ā.
á	-- yes -- is heard as á.
pà	-- rate -- is heard as pà.

(Notice how the low tone makes the consonant almost voiced.)

pā	-- put on! -- is heard as pā.
pá	-- ½ lb. ---- is heard as pá.

Practice enunciating the following words, paying special attention to the tonal differences. Though we will not try to memorize the tonal patterns of all Panjabi words, you should attune your ear to them and they will gradually become

a part of your speech.

pínā to grind

pinā to drink

ča peep

ča tea

ča enthusiasm

lāi stuck

lài detached

kēra circle

kéra which